

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

June 10th 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. contract	a) to not allow something; to stop something
	2. penalties	b) to put an upper limit or a maximum on something
	3. regulator	c) using your phone outside of your home area
	4. ban	d) to explain publicly
	5. remaining	e) an organization that sets fair rules for an industry
	6. to cap	f) a legal agreement; a signed promise
	7. data	g) to prevent something; to stop something before it happens
	8. roaming	h) any information downloaded from the internet
	9. avoid	i) money you have to pay for breaking the rule, contract or promise
	10. announced	j) extra; what is left

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

CRTC – Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission – an organization that controls the standards for radio, TV and phone service in Canada

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Cellphone customers will be able to stop their contracts after two years _____.	a) with some new rules b) without any penalties
2. The CRTC didn't _____ that are so widely hated by Canadians.	a) ban three year contracts b) change the penalties
3. If a customer ends their contract after two years they will have to _____.	a) pay the fees for stopping their contract b) pay the remaining cost of their phone
4. To avoid surprising bills, the CRTC is capping extra data charges _____ per month.	a) 100 dollars b) 50 dollars
5. International data roaming charges will also be capped at _____ per month.	a) 100 dollars b) 50 dollars
6. The big three wireless companies, Bell, Telus and Rogers, say _____.	a) they're already following many of the new rules. b) they're unhappy about these new rules.

Discussion Question

Do you think phone service is expensive in Canada? How do you communicate with people in your home country? How do you try to reduce your communication expenses?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

herbal (uses plants not chemicals)	hookah (a water pipe)	tightening (make stronger)
convince (make others believe)	proper (correct)	ventilation (air flow)
lobbyists (people who fights against a law)	effective (works well)	hire (to pay someone)

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

shisha – herbal mixes that are smoked in a water pipe.

molasses – a dark brown, thick syrup

1. My sister does not drink caffeine so I always serve her _____ tea.
2. When the weather is nice I open the windows to improve the _____ in the house.
3. The government is _____ the rules about drinking and driving in Alberta.
4. When I was in Turkey I saw many people smoking from _____.
5. My grandmother wants to _____ a student to help take care of her yard.
6. I have to _____ my children that doing homework will help them in the future.
7. Twenty years ago tobacco companies used _____ to help fight anti-smoking laws.
8. Education is the most _____ way to create change in a society.
9. I need to buy _____ running shoes because I always wear sandals, which are uncomfortable to run in.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who is trying to convince the province not to ban hookah pipes?
2. What does Alberta Health want to tighten?
3. What does Mohamad El-Turk fear?
4. What does El-Turk say will reduce the risk of second hand smoke?
5. What did the province's medical officer of health say?
6. What did El-Turk and other restaurant owners do?

Discussion Question

Have you ever seen or smoked from a hookah? Do you think smoking non-tobacco products is okay? Do you think the government has the right to ban smoking in public?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) icon	a) publically formally
	2) officially	b) head office central location
	3) storey	c) business office
	4) headquarters	d) floor level
	5) spectacular	e) something that is admired symbol
	6) corporate	f) amazing incredible

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Last Tuesday was the first time people were allowed in to the Bow Building.
2. ____ The building has 79 floors.
3. ____ The tower is now the tallest building in Western Canada.
4. ____ The Bow Building will be the headquarters for two large companies.
5. ____ Construction of the Bow Building began in 2007.
6. ____ The total cost of the building is unknown..

Discussion Question

How are animals treated in your home country? Do people in your home country keep pets? What should happen to people who abuse their pets?

Language Focus

Have to

The verb *to have* followed by an infinitive takes on a different meaning than *to have* followed by a noun.

To have to - expresses obligation; something you must do or are forced to do.

The structure of this phrase looks like: subject + auxiliary verb + **have** + infinitive (with **to**)

From our first story this week we can hear the verb *to have* followed by the infinitive:

“Instead, customers will only **have to pay** the remaining cost of the cellphone if they end their contracts after two years.”

This means that customers **must** pay or **are required** to pay the remaining cellphone cost.

The verb *to have* + infinitive to express obligation can be used in many verb tenses:

	subject	auxiliary verb	main verb <i>have</i>	infinitive	
present simple	I	(do not)	have	to do	my homework.
past simple	She	(did not)	had (have)	to work	yesterday.
future simple	He	will (will not)	have	to study	for the exam.
present perfect	They	have (have not)	had	to get up	early all week.
modal (may)	We	may (may not)	have	to meet	another day.

Note: When we use the negative form to say you do not have to do something, this is very different from the negative form of *must*.

I **do not have to study**. = You are not required to study, but you could if you want.

I **must not** skip class. = You should not skip class. Skipping class is bad. When we use the negative of *must* it is a warning.

Make a list of things you **had to do** last week and that you **have to do** now and **will have to do** in the future.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JUNE 10 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for June 10 th .	0:00
Story 1	Restaurants that allow smoking of herbal material in hookah pipes are hoping to convince the province not to ban the practice. Alberta Health is looking at tightening anti-smoking laws in the province to include non-tobacco "shisha," such as fruit-flavoured molasses. Mohamad El-Turk owner the Sultan Palace downtown, fears his restaurant will close down if hookah smoking is banned. He says proper ventilation will reduce the risk of second hand smoke. The province's medical officer of health says ventilation isn't effective and breathing in smoke from any burning material is unhealthy. El-Turk has teamed up with other restaurant owners to hire a lobbyist to present their concerns.	0:08
Story 2	Cellphone customers will be able to walk away from their contracts after two years without any penalties under a set of new rules announced Monday by the CRTC. But the federal regulator didn't ban the three-year contracts that are so widely hated by many Canadians. Instead, customers will only have to pay the remaining cost of the cellphone if they end their contracts after two years. The CRTC is also capping extra data charges at 50 dollars per month and international data roaming charges at 100 dollars per month to avoid huge, surprise bills. The big three wireless companies, Bell, Telus and Rogers, say they are already following many of the new rules.	0:59
Story 3	Calgary's newest, tallest icon is now officially open. The Bow Building has been in business for a while, but the grand opening was held on Tuesday. Its 59 storeys make it the tallest tower in Canada, west of Toronto. The Bow is the headquarters for Cenovus Energy and Encana Corporation. Construction started in 2007 and the cost was 1.4 billion dollars. Earlier this year a German firm named the Bow Building one of the world's most spectacular corporate buildings.	01:49

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
f	1. contract	a) to not allow something; to stop something
i	2. penalties	b) to put an upper limit or a maximum on something
e	3. regulator	c) using your phone outside of your home area
a	4. ban	d) to explain publicly
j	5. remaining	e) an organization that sets fair rules for an industry
b	6. to cap	f) a legal agreement; a signed promise
h	7. data	g) to prevent something; to stop something before it happens
c	8. roaming	h) any information downloaded from the internet
g	9. avoid	i) money you have to pay for breaking the rule, contract or promise
d	10. announced	j) extra; what is left

Listening

1. Cellphone customers will be able to stop their contracts after two years _____.	a) with some new rules b) without any penalties
2. The CRTC didn't _____ that are so widely hated by Canadians.	a) ban three year contracts b) change the penalties
3. If a customer ends their contract after two years they will have to _____.	a) pay the fees for stopping their contract b) pay the remaining cost of their phone
4. To avoid surprising bills, the CRTC is capping extra data charges _____ per month.	a) 100 dollars b) 50 dollars
5. International data roaming charges will also be capped at _____ per month.	a) 100 dollars b) 50 dollars
6. The big three wireless companies, Bell, Telus and Rogers, say _____.	a) they're already following many of the new rules. b) they're unhappy about these new rules.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. My sister does not drink caffeine so I always serve her herbal tea.
2. When the weather is nice I open the windows to improve the ventilation in the house.
3. The government is tightening the rules about drinking and driving in Alberta.
4. When I was in Turkey I saw many people smoking from hookahs.
5. My grandmother wants to hire a student to help take care of her yard.
6. I have to convince my children that doing homework will help them in the future.
7. Twenty years ago tobacco companies used lobbyists to help fight anti-smoking laws.

8. Education is the most effective way to create change in a society.
9. I need to buy proper running shoes because I always wear sandals, which are uncomfortable to run in.

Listening

1. Who is trying to convince the province not to ban hookah pipes? *Edmonton restaurants that allow smoking of herbal material in hookah pipes.*
2. What does Alberta Health want to tighten? *Alberta Health wants to tighten anti-smoking laws in the province to include non-tobacco "shisha."*
3. What does Mohamad El-Turk fear? *He fears his restaurant will close down if hookah smoking is banned.*
4. What does El-Turk say will reduce the risk of second hand smoke? *He says proper ventilation will reduce the risk of second hand smoke.*
5. What did the province's medical officer of health say? *The province's medical officer of health says ventilation isn't effective and breathing in smoke from any burning material is unhealthy.*
6. What did El-Turk and other restaurant owners do? *They hired a lobbyist to present their concerns.*

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
e	1) icon	a) publically formally
a	2) officially	b) head office central location
d	3) storey	c) business office
b	4) headquarters	d) floor level
f	5) spectacular	e) something that is admired symbol
c	6) corporate	f) amazing incredible

Listening

1. F Last Tuesday was the first time people were allowed in to the Bow Building.
2. F The building has 79 floors.
3. T The tower is now the tallest building in Western Canada.
4. T The Bow Building will be the headquarters for two large companies.
5. T Construction of the Bow Building began in 2007.
6. F The total cost of the building is unknown.